

STATE OF ARKANSAS

## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arkansas had 80 workplace fatalities in 2005. These findings are from the National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries conducted by the Arkansas Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The census uses multiple sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. Key information about each workplace fatality (occupation and worker characteristics, equipment being used and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing the source records, such as death certificates, workers' compensation records, and reports to federal and state agencies.

N01E: FOR OCCUPATIONS IN TABLE A-5, THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS STARTED USING THE STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (SOC) FOR OCCUPATIONAL CODING IN 2003.

#### 2005 CENSUS PROFILE

Major findings of the Arkansas Department of Labor census include:

- Transportation incidents led all other events for the twelfth year in a row. In 2005, transportation accounted for 53 of the 80 fatal occupational injuries. This accounted for 66 percent of the fatal occupational injuries.  
(See Table A-9)
- Falls were down from ten in 2004 to eight in 2005. (See Table A-9)
- Contact with objects and equipment was down from 13 in 2004 to 9 in 2005.  
(See Table A-9)
- Wage and salary workers accounted for 69 of the fatalities for employees status in 2005. This was about 86 percent of the workers.

(See Table A-7)

- Men accounted for 79 of the fatal occupational injuries in 2005.  
(See Table A-7)
- The age group 25 to 54 years old accounted for 52 of fatally injured workers in 2005.  
(See Table A-7)
- The occupations of transportation/material moving operations accounted for 33 of the fatalities in 2005.  
(See Table A-5)

## **BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAM**

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries provides a complete count of fatal work injuries. The annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, conducted since 1972, has been redesigned to generate worker and case characteristics of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in addition to frequency counts and incidence rates by industry. Initial results from the 2005 survey will be released this December.

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program is a federal/state cooperative venture developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to compile a comprehensive, accurate, and timely measure of fatal work injuries that occur during the year. The census approach to compiling data on fatal work injuries was initially tested by BLS in cooperative effort with the Texas Department of Health during 1988. The study, which collected fatality data retrospectively for 1986, showed that: (1) multiple data sources, including a follow-up questionnaire, are necessary to produce an accurate count; (2) matching individual fatalities across data sources is feasible; (3) for each incident, characteristics of the worker and circumstances are commonly available from administrative reports; and (4) timeliness is important in maximizing responses for verification purposes.

The Census approach was tested again during 1990-1991 to determine whether the same kind of data could be obtained from multiple data sources on a current basis. That study, which was conducted in cooperation with the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission and the Colorado Department of Health, was successfully concluded in May, 1991.

Thirty-two states and New York City participated in the 1991 census program. The program was expanded to include all 50 states and the District of Columbia during 1992. Funding for the annual census is shared equally between BLS and the cooperating states.

Event or Exposure (1)	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Table A-9	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number
Total.....	76	106	68	80	87	70	80
Transportation.....	37	56	36	37	48	31	53
Highway	21	36	31	23	39	18	33
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	14	9	17	5	20	5	13
Non-collision	4	18	8	10	13	7	9
Aircraft accidents	5			3		3	8
Workers struck by vehicle	4	9		4			
Pedestrian, non-passenger			4		4	5	
Non-highway (farm, industrial premise)	4	6		5	4		
Railway accidents		3					5
Collision between railway vehicle/ other vehicle							5
Assaults and violent acts	6	15	4	7	6	4	5
Homicides	6	13	4	6	6	4	3
Shootings	6	12	3		3	4	
Contact with objects or equipment	9	21	13	9	16	13	9
Struck by objects	5	15	9	4	7	6	4
Struck by falling object		10	6	3	4	4	
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects		3		4	7	7	3
Falls.....	4	8	7	15	10	10	8
Fall to lower level	4	6	6	15	10	10	8
Exposure to harmful substance/environment	13	3	5	10	4	5	3
Contact with electric current	11	3	4	9		5	
Fire and explosions.....	6	3	3		3	6	
Other events and exposures (2)....							

(1) Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

(2) Includes the category "Bodily reaction and exertion".

Note: Totals for major categories may include sub-categories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Characteristics	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Table A-7	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number
Total..... ..	76	106	68	80	87	70	80
Employee status. ....							
Wage and salary workers	68	94	60	70	80	56	69
Self employed (1)	8	12	8	10	7	14	11
Sex and age.....							
Men	72	97	66	77	82	67	79
Women	4	9		3	5	3	
Both sexes.....							
Under 25 years	10	16	5	6	7	6	12
25 to 54 years	50	64	46	55	60	48	52
55 years and over	16	24	15	18	18	15	16
Race..... ..							
White	54	80	54	64	62	50	66
Black	12	13	8	7	15	10	5
Hispanic or Latino		9	3	5	9	5	8
Other	15			4			

(1) Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated business, or members of partnerships.

Note: Totals for major categories may include sub-categories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Occupation	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Table A-5	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number
Total.....	76	106	68	80	87	70	80
Managerial and professional specialty	6	9			3	5	5
Executive, Administrative, Managerial	4	4					
Technical sales / administrative support	7	6	6	8	9		
Technicians and related support	4						
Airplane Pilots and Navigators	3						
Sales occupations	3	4	4	6	6	4	3
Service occupations	6	8		5	6		
Protective services	3	5					
Firefighters							
Police, Sheriff and other law enforcement							
Fanning, Forestry and Fishing	8	16	15	10	13	6	3
Fanning occupations	3	3	4		6		
Forestry and Logging occupations		8	5		7	5	
Other Agricultural	4	5	8				
Precision production, craft and repair	12	20	13	18	18		
Mechanics and repairers	3	10	7		5	8	5
Construction trades	7	9	6	14	10	7	13
Operators, Fabricators, Laborers	36	44	31	35	38	41	
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	6	3		3	5	6	
Transportation/ material moving operations	22	31	22	25	29	28	33
Motor vehicle operators	18	29	22		23	17	26
Truck Drivers	16	29	18		22	16	22
Material moving equipment operators	4				6	9	
Handlers, equipment cleaners helpers/laborer	8	10	8	6	4	7	
Military occupations							

(1) Based on the 1990 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures. Totals for major categories may

Note: include sub-categories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to

totals because of rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown. Bureau of Labor

Source: Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.